

PIACC

Presque Isle Area Chamber of Commerce

2010 Board of Directors

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*#*Billie Brodsky*

**Leah Buck*

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Ex-Officio Members:

#Michael D. MacPherson

Jim Bennett, City Manager

*Executive Committee

#Industrial Council

Chamber Staff:

Theresa M. Fowler
Executive Director

Valerie M. Lunn
Administrative
Assistant

Member communities:

Ashland, Blaine, Castle Hill, Chapman, Easton, Mapleton, Mars Hill, Masardis, OxBow, Portage, Presque Isle, Washburn and Westfield



Save The Date May 4, 5-7 PM

The Presque Isle Area Chamber of Commerce is launching a quarterly gathering intended to offer a casual, social setting where business people and interested individuals can gather, chat, enjoy appetizers and refreshments while at the same time learn more about the businesses in the area.

The first of these events will be held at Café Sorpreso on May 4th from 5-7 pm. This event will feature businesses that are related to Spring activities.

We invite you to participate in future events to explain the full scope of your business. Many businesses offer services and products that are not obvious to all. Please contact Theresa to arrange a date when your business can be highlighted. Our next event is planned for August 5, 2010.

If the demand is high enough we can certainly have these events more frequently. The socials will be at different venues, depending on which businesses are hosting these gatherings.

Please join us. Bring friends and associates to find out about services and activities available in the area while socializing and learning more about the PIACC.



USSA Junior Olympics

Thank you to all the area residents who volunteered at the USSA Junior Olympics and the people who served them while they were guests in the area. The response of the athletes, coaches and parents was enthusiastic.

We know the economic impact was a much needed boost, particularly with the short snow-mobiling season. The impression the officials and participants left with will make it much easier for the Presque Isle area to host major events like this in the future.

The warmth and friendliness that we take for granted in the area was amazing to many visitors.

3 Houlton Rd., Presque Isle, ME 04769; Phone (207)764-6561, Fax (207)764-1583, www.pichamber.com

Chamber Connection

Mar-Apr 2010

Annual PIACC Yard Sale



The annual Presque Isle Area Chamber of Commerce Yard Sale will be held June 5, 2010 with a rain date of June 12.

Registration through the PIACC is available for \$5.00 per household and \$10.00 for businesses. We will be producing maps with locations of yard sales again this year. Don't be missed by not registering. **Drop your registration and payment off Tuesday through Thursday from 9-4 at the Chamber office or mail it to 3 Houlton Rd., Presque Isle, ME 04769.**



Presque Isle has a regulation entitled "Chapter 58-City of Presque Isle Garage Sale Sign Ordinance" which sets regulations for the number, size, location and duration that garage/yard sale signs may be posted within the city.

"Two signs of not more than four square feet (2' x 2') each shall be permitted to be displayed on the property of the residence where the sale is being conducted" The new regulation also states that two signs of not more than two square feet each are permitted, providing written permission to erect said signs is received from the property owners upon whose property such signs are to be placed. Each sign shall contain the name of the person conducting the garage/yard sale.

Most importantly, the regulations clearly require the removal of the off-premise garage/yard sale signs within 48 hours of the end of the conducted sale.



It is time to start thinking about Hot Air Balloons

This is the time of year that the COMBF committee starts soliciting your support. We are aware of the condition of the economy and understand its impact on businesses. This makes it even more important that we extend our request for assistance to all area Chamber members and friends.

Large donations are always appreciated but every donation will aid in our ability to bring the Hot Air Balloons to the area in August.

The number of attendees have increased in the past few years to over 3,000 people in the area over the days of the event. Each visitor spends time and money and has an opportunity to enjoy what our area has to offer. We hope that you will help us spread the word through family, friends and associates and ask them to consider chipping in and supporting COMBF this year to keep it growing.

Contact the Chamber at 764-6561 for advertising and sponsorship information.



Looking for your Help!

The Presque Isle Area Chamber of Commerce is happy to report that your Board of Directors consists of 20 plus ex officio members and guests. This is great for the life of the Chamber but leaves us with a shortage of seating. If you or anyone you know have traditional chairs suitable for use in a public board room that you would be willing to donate, please contact us at 764-6561.

Please Take Note: The Presque Isle Area Chamber of Commerce has changed its mailing address to 3 Houlton Rd., Presque Isle ME 04769

Welcome to our New Members

Bear Paw Inn—Main Street, Mars Hill; 425-6241—Family owned & operated hotel. We have 8 rooms with queen size beds. 100% remodeled, cable TV, wireless internet, air conditioned. Continental breakfast included in room rate.

Fishermen's Net—93 State Street, Presque Isle; 762-3782—Fresh seafood. High quality seafood market. Product is brought in on a daily basis, fresh & live. Majority of the seafood line has no preservatives and is all natural

Teresa's Corner Café & Bakery—299 Main Street, Presque Isle; 540-1500—Home cooked meals. Breakfast served all day. Bakery on site. Hours: Tues - Thurs 5am to 3 pm, Fri - Sat 5 am to 9 pm, Sunday 6am to 3pm. Closed on Monday

Goin Postal—26 North Street, Presque Isle; 760-8080—Postal stamps, and all your shipping needs. Will package and compare prices for all shipping services. Mailboxes available. Will fax documents and provide copies.

Dean's Motor Lodge—2075 Portage Road, Portage Lake; 435-3701—Restaurant serving home cooked meals and desserts open 7 days a week 6:30 am to 8:30 pm. Restaurant specializes in Prime Rib and Seafood. Newly constructed hotel offers free wireless internet, 37" LCD flat screen TV, private bath, handicapped accessible. Open year round.

Advantage Gases & Tools—65 Spruce Street, Presque Isle; 764-4459—Advantage Gases & Tools offers welding supplies, safety supplies, safety equipment, specialty gases, dry ice, 24/7 phone service. Delivery provided from Sherman to Allagash.

Soderberg Construction Company—460 York Street, Caribou; 498-6300—Soderberg Construction Company has extensive experience in road reconstruction, underground utility construction, commercial site work, airport reconstruction, environmental remediation and building demolition.

2010 Membership Directory will be mailed to you soon!

Signature Events

Strawberry Shortcake Sale—June
Potato Booth—Summer
Crown of Maine Balloon Fest—August
Haunted Woods Walk—October
Holiday Light Parade—December

Involvement in these committees is not limited to members of the Chamber, we welcome community participation. If you know anyone who might be interested, please pass on this information. We look forward to expanding the number of people involved and sharing new ideas. We welcome comments and suggestions to make these events even more appealing.

If you have events you would like to have added to our calendar of events, please forward the information to us at:

Upcoming Events

Mar. 27—Miss Presque Isle Pageant—7:00 p.m.
Presque Isle High School—764-0121

Mar. 27—**Tractor Supply Co. Grand Opening**—
Ribbon cutting 8:00 a.m.

Mar. 27—**Moonlight Hike**—Francis Malcolm Science
Center 6:00 p.m.; Reservations required - 488-5451

Mar. 27 & 28—**Sportsman's Show** —University of
Maine at Presque Isle

Apr. 2—**Potluck**— Portage Lakers Snowmobile
Club—meeting following; Curran 227-0449

Apr. 10—**Touch of Sale**—Francis Malcolm Science
Center; 1:00 p.m. Reservations required - 488-5451

Apr. 10—**Greater Miss, Little, Miss Mars Hill
Pageant**—Rec. Center Mars Hill; J Stackpole 429-
8519

Apr. 10-11—**Spring Open Market**—Forum 764-
0491

Apr. 15—**North East Society for Human Re-
source Management**—NMCC Edmunds Center;
Curran 764-0772

Apr. 17-18—**Kiwanis Home & Recreation Show**-
Forum 764-0491

Apr. 24-25—**Spring Trash & Treasure Sale**-
Forum 764-0491

Apr. 29—**Spring Arts & Craft Show**-Aroostook
Centre Mall 764-2616

Apr. 30-May 2—**Annual Spring Trade Show**—
Hartland Arena NB, Canada 506-325-8189

May 1-2—**Spring Arts & Craft Show** - Aroostook
Centre Mall-764-2616

May 4—**PIACC Social - Café Sorpreso**—5-7 p.m.

May 6-8—**Anah Temple Shrine Circus**-Forum 764
-0491

May 8-**Aroostook River - 30 Mile Canoe & Kayak
Race** - Lisa Michaud 764-3866

May 8—**Family Science Night**—Francis Malcolm Sci-
ence Center 6:00—8:00 p.m. Reservations required
488-5451

May 11—**Art Show - SAD #1** - Aroostook Centre
Mall-764-2616

May 15—**March of Dimes Walk America**—Presque
Isle Elks Lodge 11:00 - D Barnes 498-8726

May 22—**Aroostook River Fun Run Kayak**—
Canoe Race from Washburn to Presque Isle Fish and
Game Club - Presque Isle and Washburn Rotary
Clubs

May 22—**Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs Field
Day**— Mantel Lake - Curtis Lewin 764-5731

Thank You To Our Renewing Members

- Bemis & Rossignol, LLC
- Northwoods Communications, LLC
- Made In Aroostook, Inc.
- Cary Medical Center
- Cornerstone Christian Academy
- Town & Country Apts
- Riverside Inn Restaurant
- KeyBank
- Critter Hill Kennel
- Chandler Farms, Inc
- Presque Isle Snowmobile Club
- Katahdin Trust Co.
- Just Value Associates, PLLC
- Cassidy Orthodontics, LLC
- Hotham's Veterinary Services, Inc
- Pines Health Services
- KFC/Taco Bell
- Gil's Sanitation Inc
- Key Realty
- Maine Winter Sports Center
- Thompson—Hamel, LLC
- NorState Federal Credit Union
- City of Presque Isle
- Homeless Services of Aroostook
- Patty LeBlanc
- Staples
- Presque Isle Animal Hospital
- Aroostook Trusses, Inc
- Acme-Monaco Corporation

Monthly Meetings

Board Meetings,
3rd Wednesday at 3:30
@ Chamber Office

Crown of Maine Balloon Fest Planning
Committee,
2nd and 4th Tuesday at 4:30
@ Chamber Office

Meet The Faces of the Presque Isle Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors



Shawn Cunningham, WAGM-TV

Shawn Cunningham is a face most people throughout the county recognize. But Shawn joined the Chamber because she realized in an instant that it was a great opportunity for many reasons. In her own words, "I decided to join the Chamber because it was a great opportunity to meet other people and contribute to a community I now call home. I was honored to represent my workplace WAGM-TV and also wanted to meet, greet and contribute to the other member businesses of the Chamber." As a Director Shawn brings to the table enthusiasm, ideas, tenacity, excitement, commitment but above all passion! "I think its also important to encourage and demonstrate (by example) the importance for young people to get involved in the communities we live, work and play. Professionally I bring to the table more than ten years experience working in news, public relations and marketing. I want to help grow that particular area for the Chamber and help grow our membership as a result." The only way Shawn feels the Chamber needs to grow is in tapping into new ideas, developing new events plus promoting the Chamber. But those are areas she looks forward to tackling during her time on the Board. Shawn says she appreciates the role the Chamber plays in the community because it helps to unify businesses and the business community by extension under an umbrella. "It collaborates people and entities who have a shared vision and goal...to grow and empower Aroostook County." If you'd like to contact Shawn you can do so via email at: scunningham@wagmtv.com



Billie Brodsky

For Billie Brodsky, most of the first three years on the Board was a self professed learning experience. Working with her daughter who had opened "The Silver Basket" store on main street Billie thought joining the chamber was a unique opportunity to learn about the Presque Isle area and network with other businesses. By the second term, Billie became very enthusiastic at working to make the Chamber shine and grow with a positive impact and mutual involvement with the business community. When asked what is the most important attribute to contribute to the Chamber she emphatically says "Time, time and more time! Seriously, my working background was Office Manager for a law office for 30 years so I feel that my organizational skills have been helpful." Billie says the Chamber is a vital resource to the communities it serves because, "We are a small community and the Chamber is the front door to the many individuals and businesses interested in either moving to or visiting the area". Keeping up to date on important issues to business as well as a knowledge of local events is extremely helpful and necessary to answer the many inquiries that come into the office. "Personally, the Chamber helped me find my way around and gave me pertinent information after I relocated here." Billie says there are always ways the Chamber can grow and better serve its members. "The biggest strength it possesses is within its membership and to have a strong Chamber", she says. "We need to encourage more members to become active partners. In that way, we all help each other grow and succeed in our individual goals." If you'd like to contact Billie you can do so via email at silverapple@maine.rr.com

Tourism Trade Show

PIACC plans to attend a trade show in Hartland, New Brunswick April 30-May 2. Our presence there will be aimed at encouraging people from that area of New Brunswick to consider our region as a vacation destination. We encourage you to drop off material as soon as possible. If you would like to help at the show, you are more than welcome.

Make the Most of Your Chamber of Commerce Membership!

The Presque Isle Area Chamber of Commerce is constantly looking for ways to benefit our members by offering new opportunities. We thought we should take this opportunity to remind you of the benefits that you are entitled to as a member of PIACC.

- **BULK MAILING SERVICE:** This is a service that the Chamber offers to its membership which saves money to anyone doing a promotional mailing of over 200 pieces.
- **HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM:** Anthem Blue Cross offers Chamber members Health Insurance options not normally available to individuals to small business owners
- **CREDIT CARD MERCHANT SERVICES:** Some credit card companies will adjust your fees because you are a Chamber of Commerce member.
- **ROTATOR ADS ON OUR HOME PAGE:** An inexpensive method of making the 10,000 visitors to our home page every month aware of your business.
- **EVENTS:** In addition to the public events sponsored by PIACC, there are also periodic social gatherings.
- **PROSPECTIVE RESIDENT REFERRALS:** PIACC receives requests for information from people who are interested in relocating to the Presque Isle area often. Included in the packet of information we send is a membership directory so new residents will be able to locate services they will need.
- **INFORMATION RESOURCES AND SERVICES:** PIACC cooperates with Northern Maine Development Commission, Leaders Encouraging Aroostook Development, Maine State Chamber of Commerce, Women, Work & Community and many other organizations to provide our members with information
- **COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT:** Our numerous committees allow individuals interested in being active in the area, but unable to serve on the Board of Directors, an opportunity to learn more about the PIACC while meeting new people and enjoying a variety of experiences.
- **BUSINESS REFERRALS:** PIACC receives requests for business information daily. We refer customers to Chamber members if possible.
- **COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT & ANNUAL EVENTS:** PIACC works with our member communities and other organizations to promote the area and events that are hosted. In addition PIACC is responsible for a number of annual events .
- **PUBLICATIONS/ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES:** PIACC issues a bimonthly newsletter with information for our members and information on our members. In addition we arrange opportunities for cooperative advertising by arranging special prices for our members. PIACC produces and issues press releases and

Members Grapevine

ACE Rent A Car has opened a location at the Presque Isle International Airport to better serve their clients. Congratulations on expanding your business!



Aroostook Centre Mall welcomed Mr. Paperback to Presque Isle on March 15th. It is great to have a bookstore back in the mall.



Tempo Employment recently celebrated 25 years of meeting Aroostook County's employment needs. Congratulations to Lois Dickson and her staff for doing such a great job.



Wintergreen Arts Center held their official opening on March 6th with their first art show. In addition to art exhibits which will change monthly, they offer classes and birthday parties for all ages.



For many years the Presque Isle Area Chamber of Commerce
Potato Booth has served the community
by bringing high quality baked potatoes to a variety of local events.

As times change, so do we and while we are in the process of
Improving and adding new menu choices
We will be offering the

Potato Booth For Sale



If you are interested in purchasing the
Original PIACC Potato Booth,
please contact the Chamber office
764-6561 for further information.

\$2000 or best offer.



Presque Isle Area Chamber of Commerce

3 Houlton Rd. Presque Isle, ME 04769

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The Final Word

By Theresa Fowler

It seems like forever since I last wrote for this newsletter. Have things ever been busy and that is exciting!

Many businesses, organizations and politicians are working constantly to ensure Aroostook County continues to be served by a railroad. I firmly believe that the united front presented in Washington and Augusta will ensure support from both levels of government and a satisfactory solution will be found. As I am writing this we are waiting to hear where the Surface Transportation Bureau will be meeting for their hearing on the proposed abandonment application. Together we will succeed!

Presque Isle was the host of a very successful USSA Junior Olympics event. Although there was not any excess snow, the athletes, coaches, parents and other visitors enjoyed the experience greatly. Local businesses benefited from the influx of visitors, helping replace the loss of business from the short snowmobiling season. Let's hope we can host similar events soon. Thank you to the organizing committee and the many volunteers.

Congratulations to those recognized at the Annual Recognition Dinner. John H. Graves was recognized for his lifetime of service to the area, Kimberly Smith was honored as Citizen of the Year for her tireless work on Sesqui-centennial celebrations and other historical society work, Braden Theater was named Business of the Year for their contribution to improving downtown Presque Isle and bringing movies back to the city. In addition Leah Buck was recognized for her role as President of PIACC, Billie Brodsky was voted Director of the Year by her peers around the Board of Directors' table. Sadly, Derik Smith and Cathy Beaulieu said farewell to the Board of Directors.

As you can see from the information included in this newsletter we are preparing for spring and summer. The calendar of events is full and we have not included any of the events that will be held at UMPI or NMCC.

If you would like to be involved in any of our events or like us to help spread the word about events your organization is planning please contact me. If you prefer my email address is tfowler@pichamber.com